THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The Central Direct Taxes Advisory Committee which became due for re-constitution in October, 1988 has not yet been re-constituted. Some regional Direct Taxes Advisory Committees have also not yet been re-constituted.

(b) and (c) The re-constitution of these committees is a time consuming process. Suggestions are received from Commissioners of Income-tax and other public bodies. It requires considerable time to scrutinise these suggestions. Efforts are being made to re-constitute the Committees as early as possible. It may be mentioned that in respect of Regional Direct Taxes Advisory Committees, the previous Committee will continue to function until the committee is re-constituted.

(d) The term of Central Direct Taxes Advisory Committee expired in October, 1988. About Regional Direct Taxes Advisory Committees, the information would be too lengthy as the date varies in each case.

Suggestions made by Maharashtra Government regarding Small Savings Scheme

2084. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has made some suggestions regarding Small Savings Scheme in the State to the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's reaction to each of these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) In the recent past, no suggestion for improvement of Small Savings Scheme has been received excepting extending benefit of Section 80(L) of Income Tax Act to investments in National Savings Certificate VIII (Issue). This suggestion has not been agreed to.

Delay in the Appointment of Chairman-cum-Managing Directors and Executive Directors in Nationalised Banks

2085. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an inordinate delay in the appointment of Chairman-cum-Managing Directors as well as Executive Directors in Nationalised Banks;

(b) if so, what are the names of the banks where such appointments are to be made and the reasons for delay in appointing the MDs/Chairman/Executive Directors; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of appointment of top executives, the corporate performance of these banks is suffering and if so, what steps are being taken to fill up such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) At present, the position of Chairman and Managing Director is vacant in one nationalised bank *viz.* Bank of Maharashtra. The position of Executive Director is vacant in 4 banks *viz.* Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of India, Canara Bank and Punjab and Sind Bank. The selection process to fill up these vacancies has already been initiated. It has been the endeavour of the Government to ensure timely decisions regarding appointment of whole-time directors in nationalised banks.

The performance of all nationalised banks including those where vacancies of whole-time directors exist is monitored on a continual basis by Government and Reserve Bank of India and such measures as considered necessary are taken from time to time to ensure their effective performance.